

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317

INFO TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 0374

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF JAMAICA MEETINGS.

1. MEXICAN PRESS GAVE JAMAICA MEETINGS OF INTERIM AND DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE, WITH A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS SENDING THEIR OWN CORRESPONDENTS. UPON RETURN TO MEXICO FINANCE MINISTER BETETA REFERRED TO MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON AND SAID MEXICO HAD PLAYED KEY ROLE IN BRINGING DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOGETHER.

2. PRESS COVERAGE IN EARLY PART OF WEEK FOCUSED ON FINANCE MINISTER BETETAS SPEECH TO GROUP OF 24. THIS WAS INTERPRETED AS BEING STRONG DEFENSE OF QUOTE THIRD WORLD UNQUOTE. COVERAGE ON FOLLOWING DAY FOCUSED ON DEMANDS OF GROUP OF 24 AS SENT TO INTERIM COMMITTEE, AND THAT BETETA WAS SPOKESMAN AND NEGOTIATOR FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FRIDAY COVERAGE HAILED AGREEMENTS AS DAWN OF NEW ERA FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM.

3. BETETA TOLD PRESS ON JANUARY 8 THAT MEXICO WOULD HAVE QUOTA OF \$433 MILLION, UP 45 PERCENT, AND THAT THIS PLUS RETURN TO MEXICO OF GOLD(\$90 MILLION AT MARKET PRICE),
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PLUS RETURN OF SIMILAR AMOUNT FROM PROCEEDS OF FUND GOLD

SALES, WOULD STRENGTHEN MEXICO'S RESERVES. PRESS USED THE TOTAL OF THESE AS BENEFIT TO MEXICO FROM MEETING. BETETA ALSO SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE BIG COUNTRIES ADOPT IMF ADVICE ON ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND THAT HE VIEWED MEETING AS SUCCESS.

4. UPON RETURN TO MEXICO, BETETA TOLD PRESS THAT QUOTE WE HAVE PROMISE OF U.S. THAT NEW TRADE LAW WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL THAN HARMFUL TO MEXICO.... I HAVE PROMISE OF SECRETARY SIMON THAT HE WILL SEARCH FOR WAYS THAT THE NEW LAW WILL FAVOR US UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. ECONOMIC RECOVERY SHOULD RESULT IN GREATER MEXICAN EXPORTS. THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN KINGSTON INTRODUCES A NEW INTERNATIONAL MONETARY ORDER AND SHOULD BENEFIT THE MEXICAN ECONOMY, HE NOTED, ADDING THAT THE AGREEMENTS QUOTE ALSO REAFFIRM THE FOREIGN IMAGE OF MEXICO AS HAVING THE LUCK TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE, AT THE PROPER MOMENT, IN BENEFIT OF ALL, DEVELOPING AS WELL AS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BECAUSE DISORDER HARMS ALL AND ORDER BENEFITS ALL, END QUOTE.

5. SECRETARY SIMON'S PRESS CONFERENCE WIDELY REPORTED WITH EMPHASIS ON HIS REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT IMF SHOULD NOT BE CONVERTED INTO AN AID AGENCY. FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO WIDELY COVERED WITH EMPHASIS ON HIS REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT FRANCE SUPPORTED AGREEMENTS TO STABILIZE COMMODITY PRICES.

6. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED VISIT OF IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR TO MEXICO. HE IS SCHEDULED TO SEE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA JANUARY 14, AND ALSO TO MEET WITH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOPEZ-PORTILLO.
JOVA

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